

## **EOB Drainage/Road Project Update**

The EOB board continues to work on our drainage/road project with the help of the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors. Jacobson-Westergard & Associates completed plans and specs and have sent them out to bidders. Bids are due on January 20<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the Board of Supervisors will receive the bids and award the contract for the work. Actual construction is expected to begin as soon as weather permits in the spring. The hard surface road work will be done in 2009 with the drainage work (Low Impact Design or "LID" practices) done in 2010.

**Your EOB board will be hosting two information meetings, one on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and the other on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.** These will be held at the Spirit Lake Library community room, enter thru the door on the west side. Each day the meeting will be divided into three time blocks, 10:30am-11:30am, 12:30pm-1:30pm, and 2:00pm-3:00pm. Each time block will be focused on a portion of the EOB area. If you cannot attend in your time block, feel free to come at one of the other times. The first time block is intended for those on the county road loop, Walleye Drive, and Frank St. The second time block will be focused on Martin Drive from Teresa Avenue to the boat ramp, Teresa Avenue, Carol Lane, Vickie Road, and Shoreline Drive between Martin Drive and Teresa Avenue. The third time block will be focused on Babs Street, Paula Lane, Martin Drive from Babs St to Teresa Avenue, and Shoreline Drive between Babs St and Paula Lane.

At each of these meetings, Jacobson-Westergard will be there to review what will be done, when, and where. Present plans call for the road work to be done in four phases or stages. These will be reviewed in depth. We encourage all of you to plan to attend one of these meetings.

Four grants have been received for the project. The largest is a \$386,000 grant from WIRB (Watershed Improvement Review Board) to apply to the drainage portion of the project. A grant was received for the preliminary drainage study completed last spring by Jacobson-Westergard. A grant has been received for testing run-off going into the lake, before, during, and after the project. This grant is particularly important to be sure that there is no increase in silt into the lake during construction and then to measure the reduction in silt into the lake after the project is complete. The last grant is for LID practices. The balance of the project will be financed mostly by the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF). TIF does not result in a tax increase to property owners, only a re-direction of existing tax funds. This project would not be possible if the TIF district established for the sanitary sewer was not already in place. The only other financing options would result in property owners paying for most or all of the project. This is not a viable alternative!

Present county policy is for road right-of-ways to be 60 feet in width. Much of EOB is laid out with 50 foot right-of-ways. The county has agreed to work within the 50 feet where possible. JW is working diligently to keep as much of the project work as possible in the road right-of-way, however, there are a few areas where there may be a need for more area than the right-of-way provides. In these cases, Jacobson-Westergard will be contacting and working directly with the affected property owners. One concern that has been expressed is the cutting of trees, shrubs, and bushes. All of the trees, shrubs, and bushes scheduled to be removed are on the EOB right-of-way and under the control of your EOB board. Your board has recommended that wherever possible that trees be left. It can be argued that trees, bushes, and shrubs root systems help hold soil and slow water flow. In some cases, these trees are serving as an impedance to proper drainage. Once established, the LID practices, LID items include bio-swales, run-off basins, rain gardens, etc which are designed to slow and filter run-off on its way to the lake, will provide better drainage control than what is currently present.

JW has this project on their web site, everyone is welcome to follow the progress. Website is: [www.jacobson-westergard.com](http://www.jacobson-westergard.com) On their home page, click on “projects”, then click on “East Okoboji Beach...”.

The overall impact of this project is tremendous. Improved water quality of the runoff going into the lake, reduction of road dust problems, improved appearance of EOB, and improved property values are a few of the many benefits. Your board appreciates your present and future support of EOB and this project as it moves forward.

Please feel free to contact any board member with your questions.

**PLEASE HAVE A SAFE WINTER!! SEE YOU AT THE INFORMATION MEETINGS!!**

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